

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows

1. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting frame according to claim 12, wherein for a cheese vat for at least preparing curd for soft fresh cheese, said cutting frame comprising:
a cutting wire system,
a frame having at least two opposite frame parts between which cutting wire sections extend, the opposite frame parts having a number of series of openings located next to one another in a row for receiving a cutting wire, each of the series of openings includes including an outer opening at each end of each of the series of openings, and the
a pull relief means provided on at least one of the frame parts that receives a cutting wire and fastens the ends of the cutting wire, said pull relief means comprise comprising at least one extra opening provided near each outer opening, wherein a cutting wire end has first been led through one of the said outer openings and has subsequently been led through the at least one extra opening, and the corresponding cutting wire ends being led through the pull relief means, and the cutting wire end reaching beyond the extra opening having been welded down on the respective frame part beyond the pull relief means.

15. (Original) A cutting frame according to claim 14, wherein, between the exit of the extra opening and the welding site, the cutting wire end reaching beyond the extra opening has been bent around at least one edge of the frame part and/or of the further opening provided in it.

16. (Original) A cutting frame according to claim 15, wherein the cutting wire ends have been welded down without addition of separate welding material.

17. - 20. (Cancelled)